

Appln. No. 10/671,240
Amendment dated January 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed October 26, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

Claims 1 through 9 and 11 through 20 remain in this application. Claim 10 has been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn or added.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

Parts 1 through 5 of the Office Action

Claims 1 and 3 through 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,604,320 to Hsia in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,487,977 to Williams.

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,604,320 to Hsia in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,487,977 to Williams et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,386,491 to Bissett.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,604,320 to Hsia in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,487,977 to Williams et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 836,321 to Hill.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,604,320 to Hsia in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,487,977 to Williams et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,990,647 to Himebaugh.

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Claim 1 has been amended to include the requirements of claim 10, but the "diametrically opposed" requirement for the "elongate slots" has been removed from amended claim 1 to avoid any possibility of duplication of the recitation of claim 12.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1 through 9 and 11 through 20 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraph 18 of the Office Action

Claims 11 through 20 have been allowed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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